



State of California
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Inquiry: With the advent of the Power Ox program, home care companies now can legally facilitate pulse oximetry testing on their own patients. The oximeter is delivered by the home care employee. The oximeter is then applied by the patient and the data is downloaded in a specially encrypted palm and then uploading to the laboratory for analysis and reporting. The concept has been sanctioned by Medicare as being kosher. The question at hand is whether the employee downloading the oximetry data from the oximeter to the palm has to be a RCP.

Response: Based upon the information you have provided it appears that the ONLY role of the home care employee with Power Ox is to deliver and retrieve the recording device. Based upon this information it would be acceptable for the home care employee to perform this function.

I would clarify that the analysis and reporting of the information should be performed by a licensed respiratory care practitioner. The oximetry data collected is considered respiratory diagnostic care and therefore meets the requirement to be performed by a licensed practitioner

Reference #: 2005-C-13